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FLOOR DEBATE

April 30, 2001      LB 543, 657

SENATOR CUDABACK: The amendment is not adopted. I do raise the call. Mr. Clerk, next amendment to the bill.

CLERK: Senator Wickersham, AM1668. (Legislative Journal page 1727.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Wickersham, you're recognized to open on AM1668 to LB 543.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Mr. President, this is a simple amendment. It is becoming a familiar topic. This amendment simply says that if we're going to appropriate extra money to the NRDs in the program that they can't spend money from that program on Antelope Valley. If you remember on General File we were speculating that there's about \$2 million that could be used out of that fund or would be programmed out of that fund for Antelope Valley. And, you know, we've had all this discussion. We're going to put a bunch of state money in there from cigarette tax, at least if LB 657 gets around again. And then we would put in this money. We would put in gas tax money. We would put in funds from other sources and, quite frankly, I can't see that we should have that much state money involved. If you remember last time when we discussed this on General File, we passed around a statement of where they expected to raise the money. University of Nebraska has put in \$11 million worth of property. They were going to collect \$10 million, is my recollection, from the NRDs. Well, when you read that you probably thought that was local money that the NRDs were going to raise on their own. That turns out not to be the case. What they really want is the money from us. I can't frankly see, despite Senator Beutler's claims to the contrary, that the city of Lincoln is putting anything into this project. In fact, it's very hard for me to see local money except that they're diverting some gas tax dollars that they would otherwise use to fix potholes or do other street improvements. Apparently, they're willing to divert that, but that isn't really city money. It comes back to the city and would normally be used for their streets, that's true; but that's just kind of a reallocation. And if you remember on the promotional materials they had to promise that this could be done without raising